Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITED TEXT OF TOAST BY SPEAKER ALBERT AT DINNER GIVEN BY U.S. DELEGATION AUGUST 20TH

- 1. "MR. PRESIDENT, AND YOUR DISTINGUISHED AND LOVELY LADY, MY FRIENDS OF YUGOSLAVIA WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH US, DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR AND HIS LOVELY LADY, AND MY FRIENDS:
- 2. THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO HAVE A LAST MEETING IN A VISIT THAT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED THAT I HAVE EVER TAKEN. I WILL LEAVE BELGRADE WITH A FEELING THAT I HAVE BEEN AMONG FRIENDS. I BELIEVE THAT I CAN SAY HONESTLY THAT I HAVE HEARD LESS CRITICISM OF OUR NATION HERE THAN I HAVE HEARD IN MOST OF THE NATIONS I HAVE VISITED IN SEVERAL YEARS. I THINK YOU HAVE A SPIRIT OF LIVE AND LET LIVE, AND AS THE DISTINGUISHED PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SAID TO US YESTERDAY, THERE IS NO ANTI-AMERICANISM IN YUGOSLAVIA; AND THIS IS THE STORY WHICH I SHALL TELL OVERAND OVER AGAIN WHEN I GET BACK TO AMERICA, BECAUSE IF THERE IS ANY ANTI-YUGOSLAVIANISM IN AMERICA, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
- 3. WE ARE ASSEMBLED AT AN IMPORTANT TIME IN THE LIVES OF OUR TWO NATIONS. WE FACE CHALLENGES MANKIND HAS NEVER CONFRONTED IN MANY FIELDS: IN ENERGY, IN FOOD, IN RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR, CHALLENGES WHICH MAY DETERMINE THE VERY FUTURE IF NOT THE SURVIVAL OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WORLD. THE COMMON THEME OF THESE CHALLENGES IS THAT NO ONE NATION,

NO ONE GROUP OF NATIONS, CAN SOLVE THEM ON THEIR OWN.

- 4. BUT NO TWO NATIONS CAN MAKE A MORE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN MY OPINION. YUGOSLAVIA IS A LEADER OF THE NEW NATIONS OF THE WORLD, THAT TWO THIRDS OF MANKIND, STRIVING FOR EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT, BELONG TO THAT CATEGORY. THIS CERTAINLY IS THE LEADER AMONG THOSE. THE U.S. IS A LEADER OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES, WHOSE PEOPLE ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE BUILDING OF A MORE JUST, PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL WORLD. THUS OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS MEANING FAR BEYOND OURSELVES. WHETHER WE COOPERATE OR CONFRONT, WHETHER WE EMPHASIZE WHAT UNITIES THERE ARE THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER, OR WHAT DIVIDES US, WILL BE CENTRAL TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND THE DEVELOPING, AND THOSE OF DIFFERENT AND DIFFERING IDEOLOGIES. WE MUST BEGIN FROM A BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT, ALL OF US.
- 5. EARLIER THIS MONTH, AND JUST A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THIS PLACE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE LEADER OF OUR NATION, EXPRESSED OUR GREAT AND ENDURING ADMIRATION FOR YUGOSLAVIA AND FOR ITS INDEPENDENT SPIRIT. HE AFFIRMED OUR INTEREST IN YOUR NATION'S SOVEREIGNTY, INTEGRITY AND WELL-BEING.
- 6. LET ME TONIGHT, ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THROUGH THEM OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, REAFFIRM THAT VIEW. BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE EXECUTIVES BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT, THOUGH OF DIFFERENT PARTIES, ARE UNITED IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF LASTING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, MILITARY, AND ABOVE ALL, FRIENDLY TIES WITH THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA.
- 7. OUR GOAL MUST BE A RELATIONSHIP WHICH BECAUSE IT SERVES THE INTEREST OF BOTH NATIONS, IS ENDURING. AMONG THE QUALITIES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WHICH AMERICANS HAVE COME MOST TO VALUE ARE ITS OEPNNESS AND CANDOR. IN THAT SPIRIT, LET ME SAY THAT JUST AS WE WANT TO BE SENSITIVE TO YOUR INTERESTS AND TO YOUR CONCERNS, SO WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE SENSITIVE TO OURS. EACH OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS DELEGATION, EACH MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF THE US MUST EXPLAIN TO HIS CONSTITUENTS WHY WE WANT GOOD RELATIONS WITH YOUR NATION. AN ATMOSPHERE OF HOSTILITY AND CONFRONTATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORA CANNOT HELP BUT IMPAIR BILATERAL TIES. I AM CONVINCED THAT OUR VISIT HERE, OUR USEFUL DISCUSSION LAST EVENING UNCLASSIFIED

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AND THE TALKS AND EXPERIENCES WE HAVE HAD AND WILL HAVE, WILL CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF YUGOSLAVIA IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND I HOPE THEY WILL ALSO GIVE YOU ADDITIONAL INSIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN POLICIES AND CONCERNS.

8. I TRUST THAT INCREASED MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WILL PROMOTE DEEPER MUTUAL RESPECT. WE SIT AT THAPCONFLUENCE OF TWO OF THE WORLD'S GREAT RIVERS, YUGOSLAVIA'S SAVA AS IT FLOWS TO THE MIGHTY DANUBE.

THE COMBINED CURRENT DRIVES ELECTRIC GENERATORS, IRRIGATES FIELDS AND PROVIDES COMMUNICATIONS ROUTES FROM BELGRADE TO THE BLACK SEA AND AROUND THE WORLD. IN SIMILAR FASHION, EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES, WHILE REMAINING FAITHFUL TO ITS TRADITIONS AND INSTITUTIONS, CONTRIBUTES TO THE INTERNATIONAL TIDE OF PROGRESS, HUMAN WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY; AND DESPITE THE TRANQUILITY OF THIS PLACE, I KNOW THAT THE DANUBE IS SOMETIMES A FORCE OF DESTRUCTION, A FORCE I KNOW YOU ARE SEEKING TO CONTROL AND ONE THAT YOU WILL CONTROL. WE HAVE WITNESSED SOME OF US TODAY WHAT A GREAT AGRICULTURAL REGION THE VALLEY OF THE DANUBE IS, HOW MUCH IT CONTRIBUTES TO YOUR OWN WELFARE. WE MUST ALSO TAME THE DESTRUCTIVE FORCES NOT ONLY OF RIVERS BUT OF THE WORLD. WITH DETERMINATION, GOODWILL, AND COOPERATION. YUGOSLAVIA AND AMERICANS TOGETHER, AND TOGETHER WITH OTHER PEOPLES, CAN HARNESS THE GREAT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND HUMAN FORCES OF OUR WORLD FOR GOOD.

9. NOW, MAY I INTERRUPT MY PREPARED REMARKS WITH A STATEMENT OF PERSONAL GRATITUTDE. I HAVE EARNED HERE SEVERAL FRIENDS, BUT AT LEAST TWO ARE AMONG THE FINEST I EVER MET. THIS IS, SOME OF YOU KNOW, THE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MARY AND ME. WE RECEIVED THE MOST WONDERFUL BOUQUET FROM THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE EVER SEEN IN OUR LIVES. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR FRIEND-SHIP AND FOR THE UNCEASING RECOGNITION THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO GIVE TO EVERYBODY WITH WHOM YOU COME IN CONTACT. BUT NOW, TO YOU PERSONALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO YOU PERSONALLY, MADAME GLIGOROV, TO PRESIDENT TITO, TO THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA, AND TO OUR JOINT ENDEAVOURS TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD - ZIVELI*" END TEXT.

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